



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

AF/1761  
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Applicant: SWART ET AL. Examiner: D. BECKER  
Serial No.: 10/043,827 Group Art Unit: 1761  
Filed: JANUARY 11, 2002 Docket: 163.1386USU1  
Confirmation No.: 7890  
Due Date: JUNE 6, 2004 (Sunday/2-Month Date)  
Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR REDUCING MICROBIAL BURDEN ON A FOOD PRODUCT

**CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on June 7, 2004.

By:  
Name:

*Debra H. Bailey*  
*Debra H. Bailey*

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**23552**

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Sir:

We are transmitting herewith the attached:

- ☒ Transmittal Sheet in duplicate containing Certificate of Mailing
- ☒ Amendment and Response
- ☒ Return postcard

Please consider this a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME for a sufficient number of months to enter these papers or any future reply, if appropriate. Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
P.O. Box 2903, Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903  
612.332.5300

By:

Name: Mark T. Skoog  
Reg. No.: 40,178  
MSkoog:TSW:PLSdb

*Mark T. Skoog*



**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE  
EXAMINING GROUP 1761**

S/N 10/043,827

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	Swart et al.	Examiner:	Becker, Drew
Serial No.:	10/043,827	Group Art Unit:	1761
Filed:	January 11, 2002	Docket No.:	163.1386-US-U1
Title:	METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR REDUCING MICROBIAL BURDEN ON A FOOD PRODUCT		

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By:

Name:

*Debra A Bailey*  
*Debra A Bailey*

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE**

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed April 6, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks and arguments** begin on page 5 of this paper.